AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound represented by Formula I:

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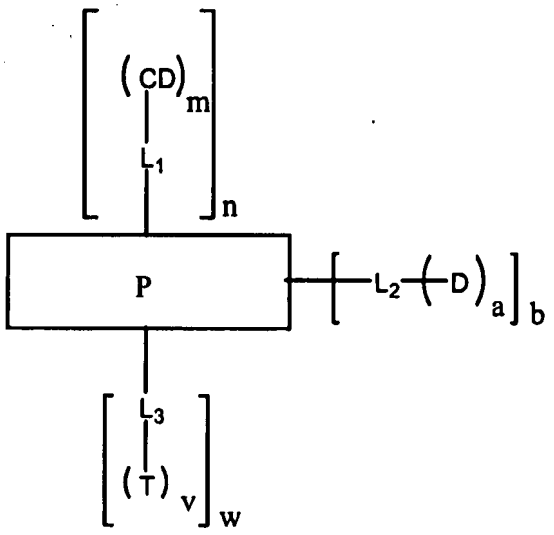


(I)

wherein

P represents a linear polymer chain;

CD represents a cyclodextrin moiety;

L_1, L_2 and L_3, independently for each occurrence, may be absent or represent a linker group;

D, independently for each occurrence, represents a therapeutic agent or a prodrug thereof;

T, independently for each occurrence, represents a targeting ligand or precursor thereof;

a, m and v, independently for each occurrence, represent integers in the range of 1 to 10;

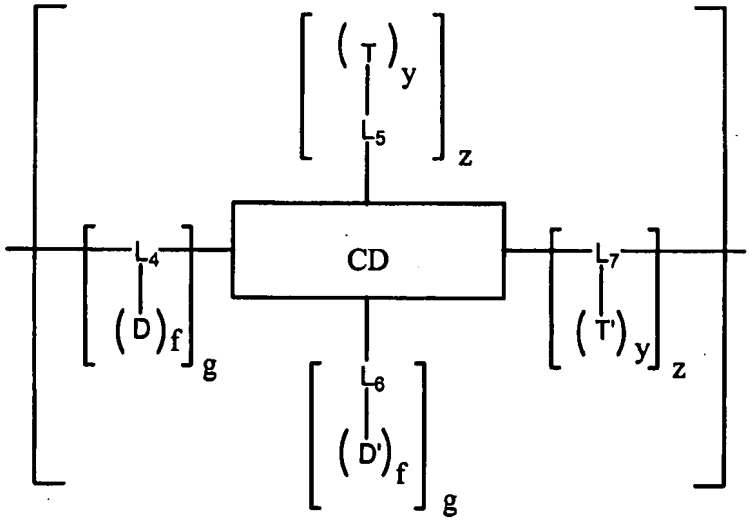
n and w, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 0 to about 30,000; and

b represents an integer in the range of 1 to about 30,000; and

wherein either P comprises cyclodextrin moieties ~~alternating with linker moieties~~ in the polymer chain or n is at least 1, and

wherein ~~at least one linker moiety includes a therapeutic agent~~ a plurality of therapeutic agents or prodrugs thereof are covalently attached to the polymer chain through attachments that are cleaved under biological conditions.

2. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the polymer chain comprises n' units of U, wherein n' represents an integer in the range of 1 to about 30,000; and U is represented by the general formula:



wherein

CD represents a cyclodextrin ~~molecule~~ moiety, or derivative thereof;

L_4, L_5, L_6, and L_7, independently for each occurrence, may be absent or represent a linker group;

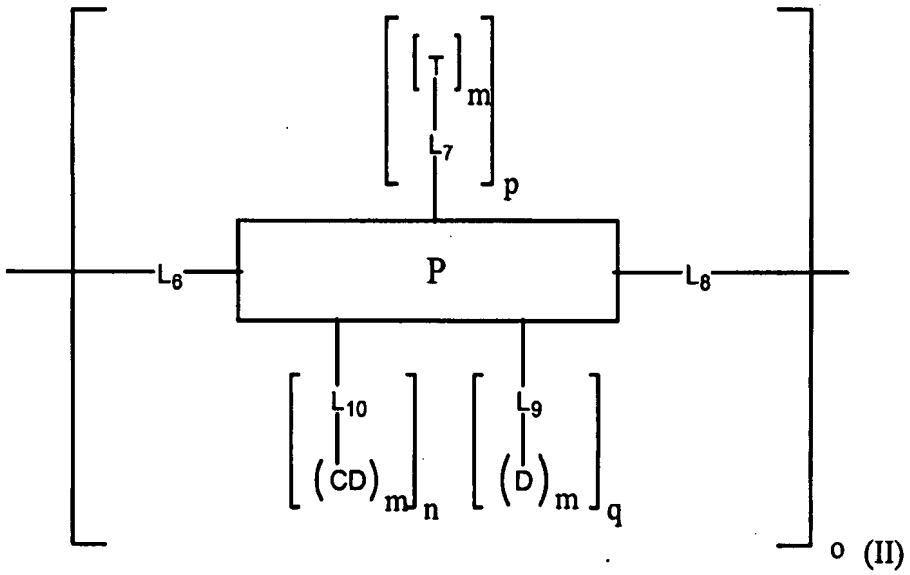
D and D', independently for each occurrence, represent the same or different therapeutic agent or prodrugs thereof;

T and T', independently for each occurrence, represents the same or different targeting ligand or precursor thereof;

f and y, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 1 and 10; and

g and z, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 0 and 10.

3. (currently amended) A linear polymeric compound represented by Formula II:



wherein

P represents a monomer unit of a polymer;

T, independently for each occurrence, represents a targeting ligand or a precursor thereof;

L_6, L_7, L_8, L_9, and L_{10}, independently for each occurrence, may be absent or represent a linker group;

CD, independently for each occurrence, represents a cyclodextrin moiety or a derivative thereof;

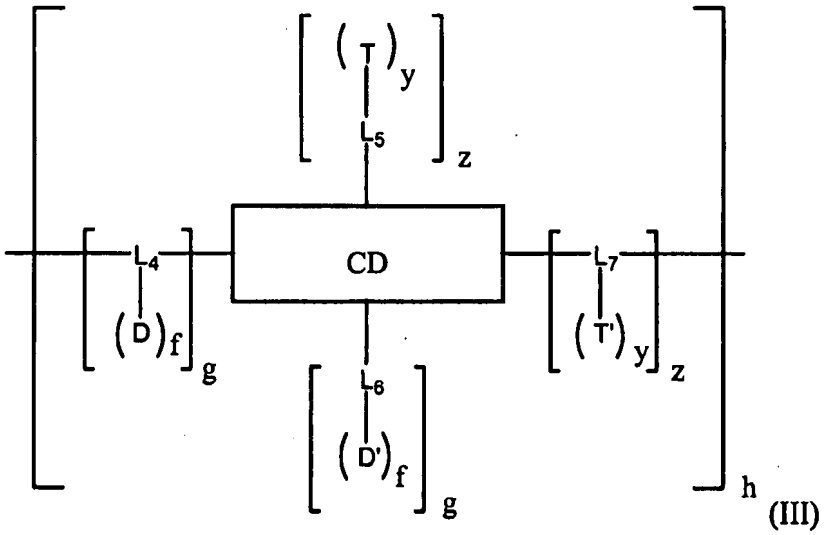
D, independently for each occurrence, represents a therapeutic agent or a prodrug form thereof;

m, independently for each occurrence, represents an integer in the range of 1 to 10;

o represents an integer in the range of ~~1~~ 2 to about 30,000; and

p, n, and q, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 0 to 10, wherein CD and D are each present at least once in the compound.

4. (currently amended) A linear polymeric compound represented by Formula III:



(III)

wherein

CD represents a cyclodextrin ~~molecule~~ moiety, or derivative thereof;

L_4, L_5, L_6, and L_7, independently for each occurrence, may be absent or represent a linker group;

D and D', independently for each occurrence, represent the same or different therapeutic agent or prodrugs thereof~~, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from an anti-cancer, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, anti-mycotic, or anti-viral therapeutic or from anorexics, antiarthritics, antiasthmatic agents, anticonvulsants, antidepressants; antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, antinauseants, antineoplastics, antipruritics, antipsychotics, antipyretics, antispasmodics, cardiovascular preparations, antihypertensives, diuretics, vasodilators, central nervous system stimulants, cough and cold preparations, decongestants, diagnostics, hormones, bone growth stimulants and bone resorption inhibitors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychostimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-epileptics, anesthetics, hypnotics, sedatives, neuroleptic agents, antidepressants, anxiolytics, anticonvulsant agents, neuron blocking agents, anticholinergic and cholinomimetic agents, antimuscarinic and muscarinic agents, antiadrenergics, antiarrhythmics, and antihypertensive agents~~;

T and T', independently for each occurrence, represent the same or different targeting ligand or precursor thereof;

f and y, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 1 and 10;

h represents an integer in the range of ~~1~~ 2 to about 30,000; and

g and z, independently for each occurrence, represent an integer in the range of 0 and 10, wherein at least one occurrence of g represents an integer greater than 0, and

wherein a plurality of therapeutic agents or prodrugs thereof are covalently attached to the polymer chain through attachments that are cleaved under biological conditions.

5. (currently amended) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the linker group ~~or linker moiety~~ represents a hydrocarbylene group wherein one or more methylene groups is optionally replaced by a group Y (provided that none of the Y groups are adjacent to each other), wherein each Y, independently for each occurrence, is selected from, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or -O-, C(=X) (wherein X is NR_1, O or S), -OC(O)-, -C(=O)O, -NR_1-, -NR_1CO-, -C(O)NR_1-, -$S(O)_n$- (wherein n is 0, 1, or 2), -OC(O)-NR_1, -NR_1-C(O)-NR_1-, -NR_1-C(NR_1)-NR_1-, and -B(OR_1)-; and R_1, independently for each occurrence, represents H or a lower alkyl.

6. (currently amended) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the linker group ~~or linker moiety~~ represents an amino acid or peptide, or derivative thereof.

7. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein said therapeutic agent is a small molecule, a peptide, a protein or a polymer that has therapeutic activity.

8. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent is hydrophobic and has a log P > 0.4.

9. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent has low aqueous solubility.

10. (currently amended) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent or targeting ligand is covalently bonded to the linker group ~~or linker moiety~~ via a biohydrolyzable bond.

11. (original) The compound of claim 10, wherein the biohydrolyzable bond is selected from an ester, amide, carbonate, or a carbamate.

12. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from an anti-cancer, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, anti-mycotic, or anti-viral therapeutic.

13. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent is a receptor agonist.

14. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent is a receptor antagonist.

15. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the compound is biodegradable or bioerodable.

16. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the compound has a number average (M_n) molecular weight between 1,000 to 500,000 amu.

17. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the polymer has a number average (M_n) molecular weight between 5,000 to 200,000 amu.

18. (original) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the polymer has a number average (M_n) molecular weight between 10,000 to 100,000 amu.

19. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a pharmaceutical excipient and a compound of any of claims 1-4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, salt, or hydrate thereof.

20-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) A linear, water-soluble, cyclodextrin-containing polymer, comprising cyclodextrin moieties alternating with linker moieties in the polymer chain, wherein a plurality of bioactive moieties are covalently attached to the polymer through attachments to the linker moieties that are cleaved under biological conditions to release the bioactive moieties, wherein administration of the polymer to a patient results in release of the bioactive moieties.

35. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from anorexics, antiarthritics, antiasthmatic agents,anticonvulsants, antidepressants; antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, antinauseants, antineoplastics, antipruritics, antipsychotics, antipyretics, antispasmodics, cardiovascular preparations, antihypertensives, diuretics, vasodilators, central nervous system stimulants, cough and cold preparations, decongestants, diagnostics, hormones, bone growth stimulants and bone resorption inhibitors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychostimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-epileptics, anesthetics, hypnotics, sedatives, neuroleptic agents, antidepressants, anxiolytics, anticonvulsant agents, neuron blocking agents, anticholinergic and cholinomimetic agents, antimuscarinic and muscarinic agents, antiadrenergics, antiarrhythmics, and antihypertensive agents.

36. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent or prodrug thereof makes up at least 5% by weight of the compound.

37. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the therapeutic agent or prodrug thereof makes up at least 20% by weight of the compound.

38. (previously presented) The compound of any of claims 1-4, wherein the compound is water soluble.

39. (cancelled)

40. (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein P comprises cyclodextrin moieties and wherein at least one of the cyclodextrin moieties of P is oxidized.

41. (new) The compound of claim 40, wherein a plurality of the cyclodextrin moieties of P are oxidized.

42. (new) The compound of any one of claims 2 or 4, wherein at least one occurrence of CD is oxidized.

43. (new) The compound of claim 42, wherein a plurality of occurrences of CD are oxidized.

44. (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein P comprises cyclodextrin moieties and wherein the cyclodextrin moieties of P alternate with linker moieties in the polymer chain.

45. (new) The compound of claim 44, wherein a plurality of the linker moieties are attached to therapeutic agents or prodrugs thereof that are cleaved under biological conditions.